

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OSLO 04887 041605Z

40

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

SAJ-01 EB-06 OES-04 HEW-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 SIL-01

LAB-03 /072 W

----- 104802

R 041516Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8916

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS OSLO 4887

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ECON NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN STORTING RESOLVES TWO MAJOR POLITICAL
ISSUES OF FALL SESSION

REF: OSLO 4590

SUMMARY THE TWO MAJOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ISSUES EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THE FALL SESSION OF
NORWAY'S STORTING (PARLIAMENT) HAVE ALREADY
BEEN RESOLVED. ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR CENTER
PARTIES, THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (KRF),
AGREED TO SUPPORT THE BRATTELI GOVERNMENT'S
TAX CUT PACKAGE, WITH SOME MINOR
CHANGES, GUARANTEEING ITS PASSAGE BY A
SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY. LABOR IS THUS SPARED
FROM HAVING TO COMPROMISE WITH THE FAR LEFT
OR DEPEND EMBARRASSINGLY ON CONSERVATIVE VOTES
TO PASS ITS BUDGET. THE GOVERNMENT POSITION
FAVORING ABORTION ON DEMAND WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED,
SO THE GOVERNMENT MAY INSTEAD PREPARE AND SUBMIT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OSLO 04887 041605Z

LEGISLATION TIDYING UP AND LIBERALIZING

ITS PRESENT ABORTION RULES. THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE NO DIFFICULTY PASSING ITS ONLY OTHER CONTROVERSIAL DOMESTIC MEASURE, BANK "DEMOCRATIZATION". BARRING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN, FISHERY OR SECURITY POLICY, SUCH AS UNUSUALLY STRONG RECRIMINATIONS OVER ITS DECISION NOT TO JOIN ECG, NOTHING IS EXPECTED TO DISTURB THE MINORITY BRATTELI GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE, AT LEAST UNTIL NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY

1. THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET, ITS MAJOR POLITICAL MEASURE OF THE FALL STORTING SESSION, HAS ALREADY OBTAINED SUPPORT GUARANTEEING ITS EASY PASSAGE, ELIMINATING ANY DIFFICULTIES THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE FACED ON THE SESSIONS CENTRAL ISSUE. UNDER FORMER PRIME MINISTER KORVALD'S LEADERSHIP KRF AGREED TO SUPPORT LABOR'S TAX REDUCTION BUDGET PACKAGE WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS, THUS ENSURING ITS PASSAGE AND RESCUING LABOR FROM THE NEED EITHER TO COMPROMISE WITH THE FAR LEFT SOCIALIST ELECTORAL LEAGUE (SV) OR TO PASS ITS TAX PACKAGE WITH EMBARRASSING SUPPORT FROM OR EVEN CONCESSIONS TO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. KRF THUS REINFORCED ITS "RESPONSIBLE" IMAGE, GARNERED ITS SHARE OF CREDIT FOR TAX REDUCTIONS, ISOLATED SV AND LAID SOME GROUNDWORK FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION WITH LABOR IN GOVERNING NORWAY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WEAKENED EFFORTS TOWARD A SOLID NON-SOCIALIST FRONT AGAINST LABOR. THE MINOR CHANGES OBTAINED BY KRF INCLUDE CUTS IN THE SIZE OF THE TAX REDUCTIONS FOR SINGLE PEOPLE EARNING NKR. 60,000 (ABOUT \$10,000) AND ABOVE AND FOR MARRIED PEOPLE EARNING NKR. 80,000 (ABOUT \$14,500) AND ABOVE, REDUCTION OF PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION FARE INCREASES AND A SLIGHT INCREASE IN BEER AND TOBACCO TAXES. THE TOBACCO AND BEER TAX INCREASES, THE LATTER ROUGHLY ONE US PENNY A BOTTLE, WILL APPEAL TO KRF'S STRONG TEMPERANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OSLO 04887 041605Z

ELEMENT.

2. AFTER DEBATE LASTING UNTIL TWO IN THE MORNING NOVEMBER 1, THE STORTING REJECTED BY ONE VOTE A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT ABORTION RULES BE LIBERALIZED TO PERMIT ABORTION ON DEMAND WITHIN THE FIRST 12 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY. PRESENT

RULES REQUIRE APPROVAL BY LOCAL "ABORTION COUNCIL" USUALLY CONSISTING OF TWO DOCTORS, WITH WIDELY VARYING INTERPRETATIONS AS TO WHAT GROUNDS ARE VALID, PARTICULARLY WHETHER "SOCIAL" AS OPPOSED TO "MEDICAL" GROUNDS CAN BE ACCEPTED. A SOLID NON-SOCIALIST FRONT, PLUS THE LONG-ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION OF ONE SV STORTINGSMAN WHO IS A PROTESTANT "DEACON", RESULTED IN THE MEASURE'S DEFEAT. AS A RESULT OF THE STORTING DEBATE AND VOTES, SOCIAL MINISTER TOR HALVORSEN ANNOUNCED THAT A BILL WILL BE PREPARED AND PRESENTED NEXT SPRING MODIFYING PRESENT LEGISLATION TO LIBERALIZE IT AND BRING IT UP TO DATE WITH PRESENT PRACTICE. THE DEFEAT OF ABORTION ON DEMAND TEMPORARILY SIDESTEPS AN ISSUE BETWEEN LABOR AND KRF. MANY LABOR POLITICIANS ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THIS DIVISIVE EMOTIONAL ISSUE OUT OF THE WAY SO LONG BEFORE THE FALL 1975 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY FEEL SUPPORT FOR ABORTION ON DEMAND COST THEM HEAVILY AT THE POLLS IN THE 1973 STORTING ELECTIONS. LABOR MAY WELL HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT PRESENTING EVEN A MILD ABORTION REFORM BILL NEXT SPRING.

BYRNE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC GROWTH, INFLATION, BUDGETS, TAX RELIEF, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, TAXES, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO04887
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740316-0122
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741173/aaaackft.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OSLO 4590
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN STARTING RESOLVES TWO MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES OF FALL SESSION
TAGS: PINT, ECON, NO, CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY, (BRATTELI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005